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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

Rex F. Hibbs, Commissioner

UCC Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

FL. 251

HELENA INDEPENDENT-RECORD
HELENA, MONTANA

APRIL, 1964

Employment At Near Record Despite Weather Slowdown

Bad weather was the villain in the state employment picture during much of March. The employment gain from February was a scant 300 workers compared with an increment of 2,000 between February and March last year. The March 1964 non-farm preliminary employment estimate was figured at 164,800 wage earners. This was but 200 short of a March record of 165,000 established in 1963. The winter low in employment is now past. Employment expansion is now in the first stages of seasonal increase which will continue until the peak is reached some time this fall.

Construction Up 400; With More to Come—Despite bad weather which held much construction work to unsteady schedules during a good part of March, 400 workers were added to contractors' payrolls during the month. All of this gain was in projects other than building and reflected chiefly the recall of workers to highway and dam work. Construction totals at the Columbia Falls aluminum plant expansion program are increasing weekly and will continue until a maximum of 900 is reached later this year. The work force at Yellowtail Dam is now near the 1,000 mark. The statewide demand for construction workers will accelerate during the coming months as new work

in industrial, commercial, residential, and highway projects opens up. Some shortages of qualified building craftsmen are most likely to develop.

Trade and Gov't. Also Advance—Trade and government were the only other industry groups to record employment advances between February and March this year. Early seasonal main street hiring added 300 workers to the March payrolls. More than half of this gain was at food stores. Employment in government was up by 200 with federal, and state and local units sharing equal gains of 100 each.

Some Even—Others Down—Employment in the service industries and in finance, insurance, and real estate units failed to make a showing during March. Employment in both of these industry groups also remained the same as March last year. Employment in manufacturing industries dropped 400 between February and March this year. All of this loss was tied to the food group and reflected chiefly the final layoffs of sugar beet refinery workers. Statewide payrolls in mining, and in the transportation, communications and utility firms segment were down 100 each. A reduction in oil field drilling activities accounted for all of the decline in mining totals.

March Jobseekers Total 17,223—The number of jobseekers registered for employment in the state's 22 local employment offices totaled 17,223 this March, a figure 1,700 higher than the March 1963 count. Total unemployment dropped 1.7 percent between February and March this year but was 0.5 percent higher than in March 1963. Total employment, including all non-farm and agricultural workers, at 224,500 showed a gain of 3.2 percent between February and March this year.

March UCC Claims Average 11,600—Weekly unemployment claim totals averaged 11,600 during March. This was 900 more than the weekly average throughout March of 1963. The higher weekly claim total this year stemmed largely from bad weather which kept many outdoor workers from returning to their jobs. A 12 day railroad strike which idled over 5,000 mine and smelter workers in Butte and Anaconda tended to inflate unemployment claim totals for the first few weeks of April. A total of 3,705 unemployment claims were filed as a result of this labor dispute. These claims, however, were merely a paper count as the dispute was settled before most idled workers were able to file pay claims. There was little additional burden on the U C C trust fund.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	1) Feb. 1964	2) Jan. 1964	Feb. 1963	Feb. 1964	Jan. 1964	Feb. 1963	Feb. 1964	Jan. 1964	Feb. 1963	Feb. 1964	Jan. 1964	Feb. 1963	Feb. 1964	Jan. 1964	Feb. 1963
3) All Manufacturing.....	3.3	3.4	2.1	2.5	2.1	1.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.0	.9	1.0
Durable Goods.....	4.3	4.2	2.5	3.1	2.5	1.8	4.5	4.1	4.1	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.3	1.0	1.3
Primary Metal.....	4.5	5.6	2.3	2.3	1.4	1.0	5.2	3.6	2.6	.9	.9	.8	.6	.4	.2
3) Nondurable Goods..	1.4	1.9	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.1	1.5	2.3	2.3	.9	1.2	1.2	.4	.7	.5
All Mining.....	6.1	9.2	6.2	3.2	5.5	3.9	6.0	7.5	6.4	1.8	1.9	3.4	2.0	1.5	*
Metal Mining.....	7.3	7.6	5.7	3.5	4.4	2.8	3.9	3.6	8.1	2.0	1.4	3.8	.2	.2	.1

1) Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time. 2) Figures revised on more complete returns. 3) Excludes sugar and canning industries. Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations. * Less than .05.

Along the Hiring Line — Field Summary March 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Phillipsburg—(360 jobseekers, 50 new, 275 men, 85 women). March labor market picture showed some improvement. Recall of smeltermen and some new hiring as ferro-manganese unit reopened plus upturn in main street hiring trends accounted for the brighter employment picture. Adverse weather kept construction activity at low level.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(3,215 jobseekers, 630 new, 2,409 men, 806 women). Construction and other outdoor work on unsteady schedule during most of March. New major construction in sight includes \$2½ million afterbay dam at Yellowtail site and \$7 million expansion at Billings refinery. Good agenda of commercial and residential construction in Billings proper. Trade employment remained stable with only limited hiring but good trends noted in service industries. Red Lodge and Roundup coal mining operations virtually shut down for this season.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(526 jobseekers, 207 new, 367 men, 159 women). Fair seasonal trends prevailed in most industries during March. Construction and logging suffered some declines because of weather conditions. Employment in manufacturing and the trade and service industries still fairly good.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,480 jobseekers, 334 new, 1,106 men, 374 women). Seasonal pick up in most industries was evident during March. Construction recalls were mostly in the building field. Highway projects slow in starting because of uncertain weather. Increased hiring in clerical and sales fields expected as spring work season advances.

CUT BANK—(571 jobseekers, 54 new, 466 men, 105 women.) March job activity slow in most industries due to extremely cold weather and snow. A Browning lumber mill still closed due to financing problems. Hotel and restaurant employees labor dispute still in effect. Industrial job placements show substantial drop from last year. Farm labor demands shows good upturn.

DILLON—(240 jobseekers, 60 new, 184 men, 56 women). Bad weather kept much construction and agricultural activity at a minimum during most of March. Much work on Clark Canyon Dam and highways was completely shut down. Contracts let for \$2 million gas transmission line. Heavy farm la-

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 64	Feb. 64	Mar. 63	Feb. 64 Against Mar. 64	Mar. 63 Against Mar. 64
Civilian Work Force	241.5	240.0	244.7	1.5	—3.2
Total Employment	224.5	221.3	228.4	3.2	—3.9
Total Non-agricultural Employment	193.5	192.9	194.2	.6	— .7
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	164.8	164.5	165.0	.3	— .2
Total Agricultural Employment	31.0	28.4	34.2	2.6	—3.2
Labor Management Disputes	.2	.2	.0	—	+ .2
Total Unemployment	16.8	18.5	16.3	—1.7	+ .5
Percent Unemployed	7.0	7.7	6.7	—	—
U. S. Unemployment Rate	NA	6.2	6.3	—	—

bor demand expected during April and May.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(399 jobseekers, 28 new, 298 men, 101 women). Employment started to rise in industry and agriculture during March. Job openings in trade and service classifications headed the list. Construction held back by weather but some hiring occurred. Farm labor demand mostly for calving and feeding activities.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(258 jobseekers, 67 new, 205 men, 53 women). Passive trends continued in most industry groups during March. Some small scale hiring noted in construction, oil fields, trade, and public utility firms. Three highway projects and county road job waiting to start. Farm labor demand still not too active.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(2,047 jobseekers, 423 new, 1,315 men, 732 women). Labor market patterns showed little movement during March. Construction and other outdoor work remained at near standstill for a two-week period because of the weather. Mixed trends covered trade and service industries with hiring by some and layoffs in others. Barring unforeseen weather or economic factors, good employment upswing should show during April.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(357 jobseekers, 57 new, 265 men, 92 women). Outdoor employment remained static during much of March. Active file of jobseekers heavy with woods and construction workers. Forest service and public work projects show decline from last year. Farm labor demand lags behind year ago.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(415 jobseekers, 46 new, 353 men, 62 women). Employment in industry and farm showed some improvement over February, but activity in both remained below last year. Outdoor work on shaky schedules but some building projects continued. Main street hiring trends

show little improvement from last month.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(644 jobseekers, 144 new, 482 men, 162 women). March labor demand mostly for clerical and service classifications. Hiring trends in trade establishments not too active. Construction began on new FAA building at airport with limited crew. New \$1 million shopping center in the planning stage. Farm labor demand exceeds last year with adequate supply of workers at present.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(2,040 jobseekers, 208 new, 1,737 men, 303 women). Heavy logging layoffs plus influx of construction workers pushed jobseeker count above last month and last year. About 350 woods workers idled because of spring breakup in logging. Construction activity at Columbia Falls aluminum plant attracting many outside workers; 125 employed on this project at present. Limited hiring noted in trade and service establishments.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(434 jobseekers, 66 new, 315 men, 119 women). Labor market activity in industry and farm lags behind last year due to bad weather and completion of some major construction projects. New projects totaling \$1.3 million lined up for start this season including highway building, 100 unit rest home, city street, and sewer improvement projects.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(403 jobseekers, 54 new, 291 men, 112 women). Some highway construction resumed during March with 80 employed. Logging in temporary grip of spring breakup. Stock piled logs kept most mills on steady schedules. Trade hiring not too active but good expansion seen when tourist season begins. Yellowstone Park to open May 1 with hiring already in progress.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(449 jobseekers, 110

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.1	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	171.6	176.0	183.3	182.7	182.2	181.6	178.9	174.9	171.2	174.5
1964	165.3	164.5	164.8*										

*Preliminary Estimate

Along the Hiring Line — Field Summary March 1

new, 343 men, 106 women). Seasonal employment upswing off to a slow start but generally optimistic for later this season. No major construction at present but several projects planned for summer start. Outlook in trade and service industries appear better than last year.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee Superior—(1,592 jobseekers, 391 new, 1,131 men, 461 women). Mixed trends dominated the March labor market scene. While job placements increased 33% over last year unemployment claims were 20% higher. Good employment upturn forecast for most industries during April. Construction should set the pace with good agenda of building, bridge, and highway projects.

POLSON—(455 jobseekers, 62 new, 373 men, 82 women). Job openings scarcer than last year due mainly to completed public work projects. All logging operations shut down until mid-April. Most sawmills and plywood plant operating without interruptions on stockpiled logs. Farm labor demand shows some improvement.

SHELBY—(237 jobseekers, 37 new, 191 men, 46 women). Job placement activity up 35% from last year with most of the gain in service industry hiring. Practically no oil field activity during March. Construction work limited. Fair farm labor demand throughout March with most calls for general hands.

SIDNEY—(282 jobseekers, 74 new, 252 men, 30 women). Labor demand in industry and farm started to pick up during March. Unusually good demand for service industry workers including cooks, waitresses, and maids. Work on most building construction continued with only temporary interruptions because of weather.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(284 jobseekers, 77 new, 252 men, 32 women). New work applications increased by 57% from February due mainly to weather caused logging layoffs. Most mills operating with full crews using stockpiled logs. Bad weather suspended some construction projects and postponed the start of others. Normal seasonal trends hold in main street establishments.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(535 jobseekers, 40 new, 436 men, 99 women). Construction and farm work delayed by snow and cold weather during parts of March. Material shortages held up work on two housing projects. Oil drilling at low ebb but six additional oil exploration crews active in the areas.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Mar. 1964 (2)	Feb. 1964 (3)	Mar. 1963	Feb. '64 to Mar. '64	Mar. '63 Against Mar. '64
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	164,800	164,500	165,000	300	— 200
Manufacturing	20,700	21,100	21,600	— 400	— 900
Durable goods.....	13,100	13,100	14,400	00	—1,300
Lumber and timber products.....	8,400	8,400	7,500	00	900
Primary metals.....	3,200	3,200	3,200	00	00
Other (4).....	1,500	1,500	3,700	00	—2,200
Nondurable goods.....	7,600	8,000	7,200	— 400	400
Food and kindred products.....	4,100	4,500	3,900	— 400	200
Printing and publishing.....	1,600	1,600	1,600	00	00
Petroleum refining.....	1,200	1,200	1,100	00	100
Other (5).....	700	700	600	00	100
Mining	7,000	7,100	6,900	— 100	100
Metal mining.....	4,600	4,600	4,100	00	500
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic.....	800	800	800	00	00
Petroleum-natural gas production.....	1,600	1,700	2,000	— 100	— 400
Contract Construction	9,000	8,600	9,600	400	— 600
Contractors, building construction.....	2,400	2,400	3,100	00	— 700
Contractors, other than building.....	2,600	2,200	2,600	400	00
Contractors, special trade.....	4,000	4,000	3,900	00	100
Transportation and utilities	16,800	16,900	16,900	— 100	— 100
Interstate railroads.....	7,400	7,400	7,600	00	— 200
Transportation except railroads.....	3,800	3,800	3,600	00	200
Utilities including communication.....	5,600	5,700	5,700	— 100	— 100
Trade	38,500	38,200	38,600	300	— 100
Wholesale trade.....	8,500	8,500	8,200	00	300
Retail trade.....	30,000	29,700	30,400	300	— 400
General merchandise and apparel.....	5,900	5,800	5,700	100	200
Food stores.....	4,600	4,600	5,000	00	— 400
Eating and drinking establishments.....	7,300	7,100	7,300	200	00
Automotive and filling stations.....	6,200	6,300	6,500	— 100	— 300
Retail trade not elsewhere classified.....	6,000	5,900	5,900	100	100
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,700	6,700	6,700	00	00
Services and miscellaneous	23,100	23,100	23,100	00	00
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.....	3,000	3,000	2,800	00	200
Personal services.....	2,000	2,000	2,000	00	00
Other (6).....	18,100	18,100	18,300	00	— 200
Government	43,000	42,800	41,600	200	1,400
Federal.....	11,200	11,100	11,200	100	00
State and local.....	31,800	31,700	30,400	100	1,400
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	21,000	21,100	24,300	— 100	—3,300
Manufacturing.....	3,000	3,100	5,200	— 100	—2,200
Contract construction.....	1,600	1,600	2,600	00	—1,000
Transportation and utilities.....	2,000	2,000	2,100	00	— 100
Trade, wholesale and retail.....	5,500	5,400	5,500	100	00
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate.....	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7).....	3,500	3,600	3,600	— 100	— 100
Government.....	4,100	4,100	4,000	00	100
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	22,600	22,700	22,200	— 100	400
Manufacturing.....	2,400	2,800	2,500	— 400	— 100
Contract construction.....	1,300	1,200	1,200	100	100
Transportation and utilities.....	2,400	2,400	2,400	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail.....	7,300	7,200	7,100	100	200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate.....	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7).....	4,200	4,100	4,100	100	100
Government.....	3,700	3,700	3,600	00	100

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 894 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,240 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN MARCH 1964 AND MARCH 1963

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placement								UI Claims*	
	Mar. 1964		Mar. 1963		Mar. 1964		Mar. 1963		Mar. 1964				Mar. 1963				Wk 4-3	
	Tot.	Vel.	Tot.	Vel.	Tot.	Vel.	Tot.	Vel.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vel.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vel.	1964	1963
Anaconda	50	12	63	9	360	92	383	73	41	15	56	12	44	10	54	15	304	227
Billings	630	129	649	96	3,215	719	3,161	742	421	123	544	179	518	112	630	212	1,700	1,422
Bozeman	207	27	199	35	526	98	472	84	122	39	161	38	113	49	162	29	303	262
Butte	334	61	301	47	1,480	323	949	216	126	14	140	43	116	3	119	26	773	613
Cut Bank	54	22	40	5	571	112	421	111	23	107	130	44	85	85	170	55	303	165
Dillon	60	21	65	22	240	68	137	27	20	66	86	36	33	113	146	55	159	99
Glasgow	28	3	48	5	399	55	385	68	51	14	65	12	38	20	58	12	291	293
Glendive	67	7	53	4	258	45	345	33	40	6	46	7	49	13	62	11	168	122
Great Falls	423	79	600	171	2,047	501	1,911	571	180	92	272	72	223	76	299	85	1,484	995
Hamilton	57	13	73	14	357	79	343	80	25	13	38	5	64	28	92	26	291	223
Havre	46	3	114	23	415	115	421	109	39	46	85	20	99	77	176	71	316	214
Helena	144	21	166	31	644	192	737	218	109	50	159	30	122	23	145	48	590	495
Kalispell	208	50	218	45	2,040	616	1,769	605	95	9	104	22	145	21	166	52	1,603	1,415
Lewistown	66	8	82	20	434	126	395	111	20	34	54	9	58	63	121	36	307	240
Livingston	54	4	77	10	403	84	469	98	31	32	63	23	47	14	61	19	334	285
Miles City	110	15	72	8	449	63	324	78	76	16	92	9	48	68	116	13	303	175
Missoula	391	69	414	75	1,592	356	1,357	335	232	24	256	60	161	14	175	34	832	763
Polson	62	12	37	7	455	131	401	98	16	35	51	14	25	22	47	11	281	261
Shelby	37	10	84	19	237	60	295	83	27	26	53	13	43	40	83	11	161	138
Sidney	74	6	43	6	282	60	215	33	33	22	55	4	31	19	50	10	205	136
Thomp. Falls	77	13	57	16	284	79	259	67	20	1	21	3	66	2	68	35	253	186
Wolf Point	40	5	35	10	535	56	361	85	22	21	43	7	16	5	21	6	233	219
TOTALS	3,219	590	3,490	678	17,223	4,030	15,510	3,925	1,769	805	2,574	670	2,144	877	3,021	872	11,194	8,948

*Includes 1,304 claims of the Fed. UC Program 726 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. (1) 1964	Feb. (2) 1964	Mar. 1963	Mar. (1) 1964	Feb. (2) 1964	Mar. 1963	Mar. (1) 1964	Feb. (2) 1964	Mar. 1963
All Manufacturing	\$107.33	\$107.87	\$109.34	39.9	40.4	40.8	2.69	2.67	2.68
Durable Goods	101.49	107.38	109.67	39.8	41.3	41.7	2.55	2.60	2.63
Primary Metals	105.86	108.14	102.44	40.1	40.2	39.4	2.64	2.69	2.60
Nondurable Goods	117.89	108.85	107.90	40.1	38.6	38.4	2.94	2.82	2.81
Food and Kindred Products	102.00	93.99	94.33	40.8	39.0	39.8	2.50	2.41	2.37
All Mining	113.83	113.72	111.79	39.8	39.9	41.1	2.86	2.85	2.72
Metal Mining	112.79	112.79	105.88	39.3	39.3	38.5	2.87	2.87	2.75
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	39.4	38.2	38.8	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	107.96	103.52	99.72	NA	NA	NA	2.74	2.71	2.57

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANAUCC BUILDING
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HELENA, MONTANA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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